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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 40th to 43rd and 46th to 51st meetings, from 7 to 9, on 16 and 17 and from 20 to 22 November 2006. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/61/SR.40-43 and 46-51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[1]

(b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on a new international humanitarian order (A/61/224);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/61/301).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/61/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/61/12/Add.1).

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4. At the 40th meeting, on 7 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement, and the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the High Commissioner, in which the representatives of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan participated (see A/C.3/61/SR.40).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.47

5. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Estonia, on behalf also of Costa Rica, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/61/L.47).

6. At its 48th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.47 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution I).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Costa Rica (see A/C.3/61/SR.48).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.52

9. At the 43rd meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/61/L.52). Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, China, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Lesotho, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Mozambique, New Zealand, the Niger, Peru, Senegal, Suriname, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. At its 49th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.52 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.54 and Rev.1

12. At the 46th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Jordan, on behalf of Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Comoros, Djibouti, Jordan, Lebanon and Pakistan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "New international humanitarian order" (A/C.3/61/L.54). Subsequently, Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic, Iraq and Morocco joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 59/171 of 20 December 2004, as well as its previous resolutions relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order,

"*Noting with appreciation* the continuing efforts of the United Nations system to increase its capacity and that of its Member States to provide assistance to victims of natural and man-made disasters,

"*Bearing in mind* the proposal regarding the development of an agenda for humanitarian action and the affirmation of the Secretary-General that, in that context, the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues would be involved in developing it further and would assist in the implementation process,

"1. *Recognizes* the need for the further strengthening of national, regional and international efforts to solve humanitarian problems and for the identification of those problems that can be solved before they create victims;

"2. *Calls upon* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to further reinforce its activities and develop the agenda for humanitarian action, as affirmed by the Secretary-General;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen efforts in the humanitarian field and to report thereon, to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, as at previous sessions."

13. At its 51st meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/61/L.54/Rev.1), submitted by Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan and Thailand. Subsequently, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and the Philippines joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Jordan orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In the second preambular paragraph, the words "natural and man-made disasters" were replaced by the words "humanitarian emergencies";

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the words "to solve humanitarian problems" were replaced by the words "to address humanitarian emergencies" and the words

"and for the identification of those problems that can be solved before they create victims" were deleted at the end of the paragraph.

15. Also at its 51st meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.54/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.55

17. At the 46th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, and Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Japan, Luxembourg, Portugal and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/61/L.55). Subsequently, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mauritania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At its 50th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. At the same meeting, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, made a statement (A/C.3/61/SR.50).

20. Also at its 50th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.55 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution IV).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

21. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 2006/237 of 26 July 2006 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 8 March 2006 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[1] and the letter dated 30 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from seventy to seventy-two States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2007.

[1] E/2006/3.
[2] E/2006/82.

Draft resolution II
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-seventh session[2] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the High Commissioner since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-seventh session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, and notes in this context the adoption of the conclusion on women and girls at risk and the conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons,[3] which are aimed at strengthening the international protection regime, consistent with the Agenda for Protection,[4] and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities in today's changing international environment, including by promoting the progressive implementation of mechanisms and standards through relevant national public policies supported by the international community;

3. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[5] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[6] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-six States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/61/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/61/12/Add.1).
[3] Ibid., chap. III, sects. A and B.
[4] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[6] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

4. *Notes* that sixty-one States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[7] and that thirty-three States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[8] encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to these instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness, and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

5. *Takes note* of the current activities of the Office related to the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of the Office for refugees and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Emphasizes* that the prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

8. *Also emphasizes* that protection and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

9. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by host countries, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

10. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons as well as acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all concerned States and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

11. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon all concerned States to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and human rights;

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[7] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

[8] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

12. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

13. *Affirms* the importance of mainstreaming the protection needs of women and children to ensure their participation in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and State policies and the importance of according priority to addressing the problem of sexual and gender-based violence;

14. *Acknowledges* that forcibly displaced women and girls can be exposed to particular protection problems related to their gender, their cultural and socio-economic position, and their legal status, that they may be less likely than men and boys to be able to exercise their rights, and that therefore specific action in favour of women and girls may be necessary to ensure they can enjoy protection and assistance on an equal basis with men and boys, and notes the important guidance provided in the Executive Committee conclusion on women and girls at risk to address issues of identification of those individuals and action to be taken in prevention and response;

15. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported by necessary rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

16. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and international law;

17. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, United Nations agencies and other development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return, and encourages States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and other development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the development and implementation of the 4Rs and other programming tools to facilitate the transition from relief to development;

18. *Welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in increasing the number of refugees resettled and the number of States offering opportunities for resettlement, notes that the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement[9] sets out the strategic use of resettlement as part of a comprehensive approach to refugee situations aimed at improving access to durable solutions for a greater number of refugees, and invites interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make use of the Multilateral Framework, where appropriate and feasible;

19. *Notes* the progress that is being made by interested States and the Office to take forward elements outlined in the Mexico Plan of Action to Strengthen International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, adopted on 16 November 2004, and expresses its support for the efforts to promote its implementation with the cooperation and assistance of the international community, as appropriate, including in the area of resettlement, as well as in supporting host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

20. *Notes* that some progress is being made by interested States and the Office within the context of the European-Asian Programme on Forced Displacement and Migration on issues related to asylum and forced displacement, consistent with the mandate of the Office;

21. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows, in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and further notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

22. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

23. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to improve its management systems and to ensure effective and transparent use of its resources, recognizes that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[10] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153 of 22 December 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/170 of 20 December 2004 and 60/129 of 16 December 2005 concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

24. *Calls upon* the Office to widen its donor base, so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with traditional governmental donors, non-traditional donors and the private sector;

25. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

[9] Available from www.unhcr.org.

[10] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

Draft resolution III
New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/171 of 20 December 2004, all previous resolutions concerning the promotion of a new international humanitarian order[1] and all relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, and the annex thereto,

Noting with appreciation the continuing efforts of the United Nations system to increase its capacity and that of its Member States to provide assistance to victims of humanitarian emergencies,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Recognizes* the need for the further strengthening of national, regional and international efforts to address humanitarian emergencies;

2. *Invites* Member States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, relevant entities of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, to reinforce activities and cooperation so as to continue to develop an agenda for humanitarian action;[3]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen efforts in the humanitarian field and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

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[1] Resolutions 36/136, 37/201, 38/125, 40/126, 42/120, 42/121, 43/129, 43/130, 45/101, 45/102, 47/106, 49/170, 51/74, 53/124 and 55/73.

[2] A/61/224.

[3] See A/59/554, para. 4.

Draft resolution IV
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[5] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[6]

2. *Notes* the need for African States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall refugee flows;

3. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

4. *Welcomes* decision EX.CL/Dec.284 (XI) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its ninth ordinary session, held at Banjul, the Gambia, on 28 and 29 June 2006;[7]

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

6. *Recognizes* that, among refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, women and children are the majority of the population affected by conflict, and in this context notes the conclusion on women and girls at risk adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-seventh session;[8]

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] A/61/301.
[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/61/12).
[7] See African Union, document EX.CL/Dec.278-314 (IX).
[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/61/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A.

7. *Notes* the conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-seventh session,[9] which is aimed at enhancing the protection of stateless persons as well as the prevention and reduction of statelessness;

8. *Reiterates* the importance of the full and effective implementation of standards and procedures, including the monitoring and reporting mechanism outlined in Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, to better address the specific protection needs of refugee children and adolescents and to safeguard rights and, in particular, to ensure adequate attention to unaccompanied and separated children and children affected by armed conflict, including former child soldiers in refugee settings, as well as in the context of voluntary repatriation and reintegration measures;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

10. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-second session,[10] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories, and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role which early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

11. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight and facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees and their communities to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

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[9] Ibid., sect. B.

[10] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

13. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

14. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

15. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers;

16. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

17. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the international refugee protection system;

18. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities;

19. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are

conducive to voluntary repatriation, recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

20. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

21. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

22. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[11] where appropriate;

23. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

24. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

25. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

26. *Expresses grave concern* at the increasing numbers of internally displaced persons in Africa, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in this regard the Guiding Principles on Internal

[11] Available from www.unhcr.org.

Displacement,[12] takes note of the current activities of the Office related to the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

27. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

[12] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

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Social development: implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly; social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family; United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all; follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Social development

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Elena **Molaroni** (San Marino)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled

"Social development:

"(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

"(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

"(c) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all;

"(d) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 4th, 11th, 16th, 24th and 31st meetings, on 2, 3, 10, 12, 19 and 26 October 2006. At its 1st to 4th meetings,

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the Committee held a general discussion on sub-items (a)-(d) of agenda item 60. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/61/SR.1-4, 11, 16, 24 and 31).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/61/99);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/61/167);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A/61/151);

(d) Letter dated 3 October 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/61/2).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 2 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization made introductory statements and responded to questions posed by the representatives of the Sudan, Finland, Lebanon, Cuba, the Philippines, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Turkey, Colombia and Benin (see A/C.3/61/SR.1).

II. Consideration of draft proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.4

5. At the 16th meeting, on 12 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Panama, the Russian Federation and Senegal, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all" (A/C.3/61/L.4) and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) The beginning of preambular paragraph 3 was revised to read "*Reaffirming* the 2005 World Summit, which emphasized";

(b) At the end of the same paragraph, the following text was added: "and the need to strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty";

(c) In preambular paragraph 8, the words "that over 100 million children are still out of school" were replaced by the words "and about 100 million children of primary school age are still not enrolled in primary schools";

(d) In operative paragraph 1, the text of footnote 3 was replaced by "See A/61/151".

6. Subsequently Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Tanzania, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the 24th meeting, on 19 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia further orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The beginning of preambular paragraph 3 was further revised to read "Reaffirming the emphasis placed by the 2005 World Summit on the critical role";

(b) Operative paragraph 9, which read:

> "*Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Mongolia to host the Asia-Pacific midterm review of the Decade in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and invites the Member States in the region to take an active part in its preparations and organization",

was replaced by:

> "*Invites* Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take an active part in the preparation and organization of high-level regional conferences, scheduled to be held in 2007-2008 in Qatar, Azerbaijan, Mali, Costa Rica and in Asia and the Pacific, aimed at marshalling high political commitment, building an effective partnership among all the stakeholders and mobilizing resources needed for achieving the goals of the Decade and the International Plan of Action";

(c) At the end of operative paragraph 10, the following text was added: "including through programmes that promote low-cost and effective literacy provisions".

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.4, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 22, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.5 and Rev.1

10. At the 11th meeting, on 10 October, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/61/L.5), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world', held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

"*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 60/209 of 19 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

"*Acknowledging* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) launched after the World Summit for Social Development, in which Governments committed themselves to develop national strategies to eradicate absolute poverty and establish time-bound targets to substantially reduce poverty, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty,

"*Recognizing* that the implementation of the commitments made during the Decade has fallen short of expectations and that there is evidence of an inverse correlation between the promises made at Copenhagen and the results achieved thus far,

"*Recalling* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Emphasizing* the need to strengthen the role of the Commission for Social Development for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

"3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development;

"4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

"5. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

"6. *Emphasizes also* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

"7. *Stresses* that while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality is an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance measures to achieve growth with measures to achieve economic and social equity for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

"8. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

"9. *Stresses* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities and social protection;

"10. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education and health care,

increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms on social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

"11. *Reaffirms also* the commitment to employment policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies;

"12. *Reaffirms further* the commitments made in 'Meeting the special needs of Africa' at the 2005 World Summit, underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

"13. *Reaffirms also* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

"14. *Reaffirms further*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

"15. *Stresses* that the international community should enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

"16. *Welcomes* the increased resources that will become available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010 as well as, pursuant to the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent for the least developed countries by no later than 2010, and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

"17. *Welcomes also* innovative mechanisms of financing which contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development; in this regard recalls the New York Declaration on Action Against Hunger and Poverty of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement

and ensure long term stability and predictability to foreign aid, and welcomes further the launching of the International Drug Purchase Facility on 19 September 2006, as the first multilateral initiative based on innovative financing funding aimed at scaling up access to diagnostics kits and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis for the poorest people in developing countries;

"18. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

"19. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability, including for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

"20. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

"21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly', and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session."

11. At its 31st meeting, on 26 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/61/L.5/Rev.1), submitted by South Africa on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. Also at the same meeting, the representative of South Africa orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 9, the words "and recognizes that balancing and ensuring complementarity between" were replaced by "and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between";

(b) Operative paragraph 14 should read:

"*Welcomes* the ministerial declaration, adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on 'Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development'";

(c) In operative paragraph 22, the words "in accordance with their commitments" should be placed after the words "done so";

(d) Operative paragraph 23 should read:

"*Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives, such as the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, and notes the New York Declaration of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action on Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure long-term stability and predictability to foreign aid".

14. Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.5/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 22, draft resolution II).

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (A/C.3/61/SR.31).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.6

17. At the 11th meeting, on 10 October, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/61/L.6).

18. Subsequently Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

19. At its 24th meeting, on 19 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

20. Also at the same meeting, the representative of South Africa orally revised the draft text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 3, after the words "community-based organizations", insert the words "including caregivers";

(b) In operative paragraph 6, replace the words "*Calls upon*" with the word "*Encourages*";

(c) In operative paragraph 9, after the words "Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002", insert the words "as well as policy recommendations for the further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action";

(d) Also in operative paragraph 9, after the words "review and appraisal", add the words "including best practices";

(e) In operative paragraph 11, after the words "present resolution", insert the words "including information on", and delete the words "and to mark".

21. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.6, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 22, draft resolution III).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

22. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade, and its resolution 59/149 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Reaffirming the emphasis placed by the 2005 World Summit on the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, and the need to strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty,

Reaffirming also that a basic education is crucial to nation-building, that literacy for all is at the heart of basic education for all and that creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, youth and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they can face in life and represents an essential step in basic education, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the eradication of poverty,

Welcoming the considerable efforts that have been made to address the objectives of the Decade at various levels,

Noting with deep concern that 771 million adults over the age of 15 lack basic literacy skills worldwide and about 100 million children of primary school age are still not enrolled in primary schools, that the issue of illiteracy may not be

[1] See resolution 55/2.

sufficiently high on national agendas to generate the kind of political and economic support required to address global illiteracy challenges and that the world is unlikely to meet those challenges if the present trends continue,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that nearly two thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the efforts made so far by Member States and the international community in implementing the International Plan of Action;

3. *Appeals* to all Governments to develop reliable literacy data and information and to further reinforce political will, mobilize adequate national resources, develop more inclusive policymaking environments and devise innovative strategies for reaching the poorest and most marginalized groups and for seeking alternative formal and non-formal approaches to learning with a view to achieving the goals of the Decade;

4. *Urges* all Governments to take the lead in coordinating the activities of the Decade at the national level, bringing all relevant national actors together in a sustained dialogue and collaborative action on policy formulation, implementation and evaluation of literacy efforts;

5. *Appeals* to all Governments and professional organizations to strengthen national and professional educational institutions in their countries with a view to expanding their capacity and promoting the quality of education, with particular focus on literacy;

6. *Appeals* to all Governments and to economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve the goals of education for all and those of the Decade, through, inter alia, the 20/20 initiative,[3] as appropriate;

7. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts to implement effectively the International Plan of Action and to integrate substantially those efforts in the Education for All process and other initiatives and activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1]

8. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to reinforce its lead role in coordinating and catalysing the activities of the Decade at the regional and international levels, prepare and conduct the

[2] See A/61/151.

[3] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 88 (c).

mid-Decade review in collaboration with all Decade partners during 2007 and 2008 and submit its results to the General Assembly;

9. *Invites* Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take an active part in the preparation and organization of high-level regional conferences, scheduled to be held in 2007-2008 in Qatar, Azerbaijan, Mali, Costa Rica and in Asia and the Pacific, aimed at marshalling high political commitment, building an effective partnership among all the stakeholders and mobilizing resources needed for achieving the goals of the Decade and the International Plan of Action;

10. *Requests* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation with national Governments, to take immediate, concrete steps to address the needs of countries with high illiteracy rates and/or with large populations of illiterate adults, with particular regard to women, including through programmes that promote low-cost and effective literacy provisions;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to seek the views of Member States on the progress achieved in implementing their national programmes and plans of action for the Decade and to submit the next progress report on the implementation of the International Plan of Action to the General Assembly in 2008;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all".

Draft resolution II
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 60/209 of 19 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[1] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] A/61/99.

the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

5. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

6. *Acknowledges* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), launched after the World Summit for Social Development, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty and recognizes that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the Decade has fallen short of expectations;

7. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

8. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

9. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

10. *Also stresses* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities and social protection;

11. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by

globalization and market-driven reforms to social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

12. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality and to strengthening policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improving their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers;

14. *Welcomes* the ministerial declaration, adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development";[6]

15. *Reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

16. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to employment policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies;

17. *Further reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of "Meeting the special needs of Africa" at the 2005 World Summit,[7] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[8]

18. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth,

[6] See A/61/3, chap. III, para. 50.

[7] See resolution 60/1, para. 68.

[8] A/57/304, annex.

sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

19. *Also reaffirms*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

20. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

21. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

22. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets;

23. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives, such as the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, and notes the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action on Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure long-term stability and predictability to foreign aid;

24. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

25. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

26. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,[9] to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

Draft resolution III
Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] as well as its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 59/150 of 20 December 2004 and 60/135 of 16 December 2005,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, in which the Council invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling further Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004,[2] in which the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Mindful that, in its resolution 44/1,[3] the Commission for Social Development endorsed the calendar and the global theme for the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, "Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing", and decided to start the first global cycle of review and appraisal in 2007 at its forty-fifth session and to conclude it in 2008 at its forty-sixth session,

Taking note of the report by the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,[4]

1. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, particularly older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication strategies and national development plans, and by encouraging greater consultation with older persons in the course of developing, implementing and monitoring poverty eradication plans;

2. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

3. *Encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help build capacity on ageing issues;

4. *Invites* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling follow-up of national plans of action on ageing;

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[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[3] Ibid., 2006, Supplement No. 6 (E/2006/26), chap. I, sect. C.

[4] A/61/167.

5. *Calls upon* Governments to promote a bottom-up participatory approach throughout the entire implementation process;

6. *Encourages* the international community to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information on gender and ageing;

7. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[5] and in this connection encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

8. *Recommends* that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[6] take into account the situation of older persons;

9. *Takes note* of Commission for Social Development resolution 44/1,[7] in this context invites Member States to undertake an initial identification of actions they have taken since the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 as well as policy recommendations for the further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and encourages regional commissions to identify modalities for conducting the regional review and appraisal, including best practices, with the aim of presenting this information to the Commission at its forty-fifth session in 2007;

10. *Recommends* to the Economic and Social Council the integration of ageing into the monitoring, review and appraisal exercises of other major international development initiatives and policy frameworks, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[7] the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[8] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[9] and the Beijing Platform for Action[10] and their follow-up processes;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on the commemoration of the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2007.

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[5] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Elena **Molaroni** (San Marino)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled:

"Advancement of women:

"(a) Advancement of women;

"(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 8th to 12th, 20th, 30th, 43rd, 49th and 51st meetings, from 9 to 11, on 17 and 25 October and on 9, 20 and 22 November 2006. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/61/SR.8-12, 20, 30, 43, 49 and 51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General summarizing the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/61/38).

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(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved[4] in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/61/174);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/61/318);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women for 2005 (A/61/292);

(g) Letter dated 23 October 2006 from the representative of Sweden to the Secretary-General (A/61/541-S/2006/848).

4. At the 8th meeting, on 9 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (see A/C.3/61/SR.8).

5. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women responded to comments and points raised by the representatives of Finland, the Sudan, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic and Côte d'Ivoire and by the observer for Palestine (see A/C.3/61/SR.8).

6. The Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (see A/C.3/61/SR.8).

7. The Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) introduced the report on the activities of UNIFEM (see A/C.3/61/SR.8).

8. The Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Executive Director of UNIFEM responded to questions raised by the representatives of Canada, Turkey, the Sudan, Cuba and Gabon (see A/C.3/61/SR.8).

9. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women delivered a statement on behalf of the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/61/SR.10).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.10 and Rev.1

10. At the 20th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Chile, Costa Rica, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Slovakia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/C.3/61/L.10). Lebanon, Madagascar,

Mozambique, Peru, Slovenia and Sweden joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

"*Reaffirming further* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', and the Declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming* its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, entitled '2005 World Summit Outcome',

"*Recalling* all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women, including resolutions 56/128 of 19 December 2001 on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women or girls, 58/147 of 22 December 2003 on the elimination of domestic violence against women, 59/165 of 20 December 2004 on working towards the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour, 59/166 of 20 December 2004 on trafficking in women and girls and 60/139 of 16 December 2005 on violence against women migrant workers, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women, peace and security,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 58/185 of 22 December 2003 and 60/136 of 16 December 2005, entitled 'In-depth study on all forms of violence against women',

"*Recalling further* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/41 of 19 April 2005 on the elimination of violence against women,

"*Recognizing* that violence against women is rooted in historically unequal power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate the enjoyment of their human rights and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities, including in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing also* the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as an increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and the impact on psychological, social and economic development that violence against women represents for individuals, families, communities and States,

"*Deeply concerned* about the pervasiveness of all forms of violence against women in different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women throughout the world,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on violence against women and the recommendations contained therein;

"2. *Welcomes also* the efforts and important contributions at the national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and in this respect especially welcomes the important work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

"3. *Stresses* that 'violence against women' means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

"4. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women, whether these acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

"5. *Stresses* that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women and violence against women in particular, and pledges to intensify action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation;

"6. *Stresses also* that States have an obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish all acts of violence against women and to provide protection to the victims, and that not doing so constitutes a violation of human rights;

"7. *Urges* States to take action to eliminate all forms of violence against women by means of a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, adequately supported and facilitated by strong institutional mechanisms and financing, through national action plans and, where appropriate, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, in order to close the gap between international standards and national laws, policies and practices and to this end to:

"(a) Ensure that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, protected and fulfilled;

"(b) Ratify without reservations all human rights treaties, including, in particular, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, to withdraw all reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, and to regularly review all other reservations with a view to withdrawing them;

"(c) Remove all laws that discriminate against women, review and revise all State policies and practices to ensure that they do not discriminate against women and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights standards, including the principle of non-discrimination;

"(d) Take positive measures to address structural causes of violence against women and to strengthen prevention efforts that address discriminatory practices and social norms, including with regard to women who need special attention in policies against violence, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous groups of women, refugee and internally displaced women, migrant women, women living in underdeveloped, rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, women with disabilities, elderly women, widows and women in situations of armed conflict and women who are otherwise discriminated against, including on the basis of HIV status or sexual orientation;

"(e) Ensure that women have equal access to justice and equal protection of the law and that perpetrators of all forms of violence against women are prosecuted and punished and do not enjoy impunity;

"(f) Ensure that men and women and boys and girls receive education on women's rights and on their responsibility to respect the rights of others, inter alia, by integrating women's rights into appropriate curricula at all levels, including schools and vocational training for health workers, teachers, law enforcement personnel, military personnel, social workers and others;

"(g) Protect women in conflict, post-conflict and refugee and internally displaced persons settings where women are particularly targeted for violence and their ability to seek and receive redress is restricted, and adopt, in accordance with the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and international human rights norms, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), a gender-sensitive approach to the granting of asylum;

"(h) Institute national plans of action, supported by the necessary human and financial resources, including time-bound, measurable targets, to promote the protection of women against any form of violence, and accelerate the implementation of existing national action plans, that are regularly monitored and updated by Governments in consultation with civil society, in particular, non-governmental organizations and women's groups and networks;

"(i) Allocate adequate resources to promote gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

"8. *Also urges* States to take responsibility for the systematic collection and analysis of data, including with the involvement of national statistical offices and in partnership with other actors;

"9. *Urges* United Nations bodies, programmes and specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to strengthen, within existing resources, the capacity of countries to collect, process and disseminate data and their use for legislative, policy and programme development, to establish a coordinated and accessible United Nations database, as well as analysis and dissemination of data, including data disaggregated by sex, age and other

relevant factors, on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including in situations of armed conflict, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for combating such violence, and requests the Secretary-General to coordinate these efforts;

"10. *Also urges* United Nations bodies, programmes and specialized agencies and invites Bretton Woods institutions to:

"(a) Enhance the coordination of their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women in a more systematic, comprehensive and sustained way at the global level through the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women operating through the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and supported by the newly established Task Force on Violence against Women, in close collaboration with relevant civil society organizations;

"(b) Enhance coordination to eliminate all forms of violence against women in a more systematic, comprehensive and sustained way at the national level, inter alia, through United Nations country teams and in close collaboration with relevant participants from civil society, and to adequately assist States in the development or, where appropriate, implementation of national action plans and, where appropriate, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers;

"11. *Calls upon* the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to consider ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women as a system-wide funding mechanism for, inter alia, preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women;

"12. *Urges* States to increase significantly the financial support for work on all forms of violence against women in United Nations agencies and programmes, including the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women;

"13. *Invites* the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Statistical Commission to discuss, by 2008, the question of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations in relation to their mandates, and to set priorities for addressing this issue in their future efforts and work programmes and to transmit the outcome of these discussions to the Secretary-General for his annual report to the General Assembly;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to:

"(a) Submit one report to the General Assembly on the question of violence against women annually;

"(b) Include in his report information on the activities of States and United Nations bodies, programmes and specialized agencies in following up the present resolution;

"(c) Ensure that the report is brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

"(d) Develop and propose a set of international indicators for assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women, building on existing proposals for indicators on violence against women, as well as on the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

"15. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its sixty-second session under the agenda item entitled 'Advancement of women'."

11. At its 51st meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/C.3/61/L.10/Rev.1), submitted by Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay. Subsequently, Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of France orally revised the text as follows:

(a) A new operative paragraph 5 was inserted after operative paragraph 4, reading:

"5. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women",

and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(b) Subparagraph (j) of operative paragraph 8 (former paragraph 7), which read:

"(j) Condemn violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with

respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women",

was deleted, and the remaining subparagraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(c) In subparagraph (o) (former subparagraph (p)) of operative paragraph 8, the words "relevant General Assembly resolutions and" were inserted before the words "Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)".

14. Also at its 51st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.10/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution I).

15. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and the United States of America (see A/C.3/61/SR.51).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.11 and Rev.1

16. At the 30th meeting, on 25 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Kyrgyzstan, Monaco, Nigeria, Panama and the Philippines, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Trafficking in women and girls" (A/C.3/61/L.11). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Ecuador, Liberia, Morocco, Senegal, Swaziland, Thailand and Togo joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* all international conventions that deal specifically with the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

"*Recalling also* the commitment made by world leaders in 2005 to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

"*Reaffirming* the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

"*Bearing in mind* that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to provide protection to the victims and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

"*Recognizing* the gendered nature of trafficking in persons and thus the need for a strong gender-sensitive approach in all efforts to fight trafficking and protect its victims,

"*Recognizing also* the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

"*Seriously concerned* that an increasing number of women and girls from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

"*Recognizing* that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination on the grounds of their gender as well as their origins,

"*Noting* that a significant amount of prostitution throughout the world uses one or more of the illicit means that constitute trafficking in persons,

"*Acknowledging* that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information or awareness and recognition of their human rights, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

"*Recognizing* the importance of bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation mechanisms and initiatives of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

"*Recognizing also* that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, shared responsibility and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

"*Recognizing further* that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration should be developed through a child- and gender-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach involving all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

"*Concerned* about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children, trafficking in women as brides and sex tourism,

"*Concerned also* about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

"*Convinced* of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for their human rights,

"1. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible;

"2. *Urges* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as external factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, in order to eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

"3. *Also urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective child- and gender-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that utilizes a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

"4. *Further urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement relevant United Nations legal instruments, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958 (Convention No. 111) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

"5. *Encourages* Member States to conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements, as well as to undertake initiatives, including regional initiatives, to address the problem of trafficking in persons, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives pay particular attention to the problem of trafficking in women and girls;

"6. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation and sex tourism, and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender

or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

"7. *Urges* Governments to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized for being trafficked and that they do not suffer from revictimization, such as when victims are criminalized or prosecuted as illegal aliens, undocumented workers or irregular migrants;

"8. *Invites* Governments to strengthen international cooperation aimed at preventing and combating corruption and the laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercialized sexual exploitation;

"9. *Also invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking;

"10. *Calls upon* Governments to take all appropriate measures to eliminate the demand that fosters trafficking in women and girls for all forms of exploitation;

"11. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls, to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and to emphasize that trafficking is a crime, in order to eliminate the demand, including by sex tourists, recognizing that the majority of trafficked victims are women and girls;

"12. *Urges* concerned Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education and campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

"13. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

"14. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

"15. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement child- and gender-

sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

"16. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, as well as all measures taken against trafficking in persons, in particular those that affect the victims of such trafficking, pay particular attention to the needs of women and girls and are applied with full respect for the human rights of those victims and are consistent with internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination and the availability of appropriate legal redress, which may include measures that offer victims the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered;

"17. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are enabled to make complaints to the police or other authorities, as appropriate, and to be available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to protection and social, medical, financial and legal assistance, as appropriate;

"18. *Also invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

"19. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

"20. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of gender-disaggregated data and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

"21. *Urges* Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, through increased bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices, and invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

"22. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, as required, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best

practices, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

"23. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, which should focus on methods used in preventing such trafficking, prosecuting the traffickers and protecting the rights of victims, including protecting the victims from traffickers, to ensure that the training includes human rights and child- and gender-sensitive perspectives, and to encourage cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society;

"24. *Encourages* Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict and emergency situations are provided training on conduct that does not promote or facilitate trafficking in women and girls;

"25. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

"26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly, at its sixty-third session that compiles successful interventions and strategies in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons and identifies gender-related aspects of anti-trafficking efforts that remain unaddressed or inadequately addressed and that may be based on the work of Governments, relevant United Nations agencies and mechanisms and other international organizations."

17. At its 43rd meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Trafficking in women and girls" (A/C.3/61/L.11/Rev.1) submitted by Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, the Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovenia, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. Subsequently, Albania, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Comoros, the Congo, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Georgia, Iceland, Jamaica, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali,

Mozambique, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

18. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines orally revised the last preambular paragraph by replacing the words "their human rights" with the words "the victims' human rights".

19. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

20. Also at its 43rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.11/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution II).

21. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Belarus, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Colombia, and by the observer for the Holy See (see A/C.3/61/SR.43).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.60

22. At its 49th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/61/L.60), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

23. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

24. Also at its 49th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.60 without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution III).

25. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica and Singapore (see A/C.3/61/SR.49).

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

26. At the 51st meeting, on 22 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the following documents (see para. 28):

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/61/318);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/61/292).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

27. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Reaffirming also the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[2] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[3] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4] and the Declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[5]

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[6] and at the 2005 World Summit,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women and on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/41 of 19 April 2005 on the elimination of violence against women,[7]

Recalling further the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[2] See resolution 48/104.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2005/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

Recognizing that violence against women is rooted in historically unequal power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence,

Recognizing further that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as an increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and the negative impact on psychological, social and economic development that violence against women represents for individuals, families, communities and States,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of all forms of violence against women and girls in different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women,[8] and having considered with interest the recommendations contained therein,

1. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development and peace;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts and important contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and takes note with appreciation of the work done by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

3. *Stresses* that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

4. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether these acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State, and stresses the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law;

[8] A/61/122/Add.1.

5. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[2]

6. *Stresses* that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women and violence against women in particular, and pledges to intensify action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation;

7. *Stresses also* that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. *Urges* States to take action to eliminate all forms of violence against women by means of a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, adequately supported and facilitated by strong institutional mechanisms and financing, through national action plans, including those supported by international cooperation and, where appropriate, national development plans, including poverty eradication strategies and programme-based and sector-wide approaches, and to this end to:

(a) Ensure that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected and protected;

(b) Consider ratifying or acceding to all human rights treaties, including, as a particular matter of priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[9] limit the extent of any reservations that they lodge and regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty;

(c) Review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(d) Exercise leadership to end all forms of violence against women and support advocacy in this regard at all levels, including at the local, national, regional and international levels, and by all sectors, especially by political and community leaders, as well as the public and private sectors, the media and civil society;

(e) Empower women, particularly poor women, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as full and equal rights to own land and other property, and to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness or inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

[9] Resolution 54/4, annex.

(f) Take positive measures to address structural causes of violence against women and to strengthen prevention efforts that address discriminatory practices and social norms, including with regard to women who need special attention in the development of policies to address violence, such as women belonging to minority groups, including those based on nationality, ethnicity, religion or language, indigenous women, migrant women, stateless women, women living in underdeveloped, rural or remote communities, homeless women, women in institutions or in detention, women with disabilities, elderly women, widows and women who are otherwise discriminated against;

(g) Ensure that diverse strategies that take into account the intersection of gender with other factors are developed in order to eradicate all forms of violence against women;

(h) Exercise due diligence to prevent all acts of violence against women, including by improving the safety of public environments;

(i) End impunity for violence against women, by prosecuting and punishing all perpetrators, by ensuring that women have equal protection of the law and equal access to justice and by holding up to public scrutiny and eliminating those attitudes that foster, justify or tolerate violence;

(j) Strengthen national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote women's equal access to public health and address the health consequences of violence against women, including by providing support to victims;

(k) Recognize that gender inequalities and all forms of violence against women and girls increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and ensure that women can exercise their right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to their sexuality in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

(l) Ensure that men and women and boys and girls have access to education and literacy programmes and are educated on gender equality and human rights, particularly women's rights and their responsibility to respect the rights of others, inter alia, by integrating women's rights into all appropriate curricula and by developing gender-sensitive teaching materials and classroom practices, especially for early childhood education;

(m) Provide training and capacity-building on gender equality and women's rights for, inter alia, health workers, teachers, law enforcement personnel, military personnel, social workers, the judiciary, community leaders and the media;

(n) Promote awareness and information campaigns on women's rights and the responsibility to respect them, including in rural areas, and encourage men and boys to speak out strongly against violence against women;

(o) Protect women and girls in situations of armed conflict, post-conflict settings and refugee and internally displaced persons settings, where women are at greater risk of being targeted for violence and where their ability to seek and receive redress is often restricted, bearing in mind that peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and development, that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are

an ongoing reality affecting women and men in nearly every region, undertake efforts to eliminate impunity for all gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict, bearing in mind relevant General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, and adopt, consistent with their obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[10] and the 1967 Protocol thereto,[11] international human rights norms and relevant conclusions of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and General Assembly resolutions, a gender-sensitive approach to the consideration of claims for the granting of asylum and refugee status;

(p) Integrate a gender perspective into national plans of action and establish or strengthen specific national plans of action on the elimination of violence against women, supported by the necessary human, financial and technical resources, including, where appropriate, time-bound measurable targets, to promote the protection of women against any form of violence, and accelerate the implementation of existing national action plans that are regularly monitored and updated by Governments, taking into account inputs by civil society, in particular women's organizations, networks and other stakeholders;

(q) Allocate adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

9. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, and taking into account national priorities, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices;

10. *Urges* States to integrate gender perspectives into the comprehensive national development plans and poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues, and to ensure that such strategies address violence against women and girls, and urges the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to support national efforts in this regard;

11. *Also urges* States to ensure the systematic collection and analysis of data on violence against women, including with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, taking note of the World Health Organization multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women and its recommendation to enhance capacity and establish systems for data collection to monitor violence against women;

12. *Urges* the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, in accordance with

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[11] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

their mandates, to support, upon request and within existing resources, the strengthening of national capacities and efforts on the collection, processing and dissemination of data, including data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant information, for their possible use for legislative, policy and programme development and in the national plans of action against all forms of violence against women;

13. *Notes* the work carried out for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by relevant United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and relevant specialized agencies, including those responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights, and urges them and invites Bretton Woods institutions:

(a) To enhance the coordination of and intensify their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in a more systematic, comprehensive and sustained way, inter alia, through the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality supported by the newly established Task Force on Violence against Women, in close collaboration with relevant civil society, including non-governmental, organizations;

(b) To enhance coordination in a more systematic, comprehensive and sustained way in their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including in the development or implementation of national action plans and, where appropriate, national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies where they exist, and programme-based and sector-wide approaches and in close collaboration with relevant civil society, including non-governmental organizations;

14. *Calls upon* the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to consider ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls;

15. *Strongly encourages* States to increase significantly their voluntary financial support for activities related to preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women, the empowerment of women and gender equality carried out by the specialized agencies and the United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women;

16. *Stresses* that within the United Nations system adequate resources should be assigned to those bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to eliminate violence against women and girls;

17. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and other relevant United Nations bodies to discuss, by 2008, within their respective mandates, the question of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations, bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on violence against women, and to set priorities for addressing this issue in their future efforts and work programmes and to transmit the outcome of those discussions to the Secretary-General for his annual report to the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the Statistical Commission to develop and propose, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women, and building on the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, a set of possible indicators on violence against women in order to assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a coordinated database, containing data provided by States, in particular national statistical offices, including, where appropriate, through relevant United Nations entities and other relevant regional intergovernmental organizations, disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant information, on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for, including best practices in, combating such violence;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the present resolution, addressing the question of violence against women, and requests that the report include:

(a) At the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, on their follow-up activities to implement the resolution;

(b) At the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the resolution;

21. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its sixty-second session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Draft resolution II
Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[2] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[4] the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[5] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto,[6] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children[7] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,[8] as well as previous resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights on the issue,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[9] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Reaffirming also the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Recalling the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, as well as the information that deals with trafficking in women and girls contained in the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women,[10]

Recalling also the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled "Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns", and the attention paid in it to the situation of trafficked women and girls,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[4] Resolution 54/263, annex II.
[5] Resolution 317 (IV), annex.
[6] Resolution 55/25, annexes I-III, and resolution 55/255, annex.
[7] Resolution 55/25, annex II.
[8] Ibid., annex III.
[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[10] A/61/122/Add.1.

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[11] which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Recognizing the need for a stronger gender- and age-sensitive approach in all efforts to fight trafficking and protect its victims, taking into account that women and girls are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, as well as for forced labour or services,

Recognizing also the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Recognizing further the challenges to combating trafficking in women and girls owing to the lack of adequate legislation and implementation of existing legislation, the lack of availability of reliable sex-disaggregated data and statistics, as well as the lack of resources,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Concerned about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for trafficking in women as brides, for sex tourism exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as their origins, and that these forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Noting that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons in some parts of the world,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access

[11] *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June-17 July 1998*, vol. I: Final documents (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Recognizing the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Recognizing also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, shared responsibility and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing further that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the victims' human rights,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible;

2. *Calls upon* Governments to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation;

3. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, in order to eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

4. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective and takes into account the situation of trafficked victims, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

5. *Also urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement relevant United Nations legal instruments, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[12] and the Protocols

[12] Resolution 55/25, annex I.

thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[7] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[1] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3] the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[4] as well as the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (Convention No. 29), the Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958 (Convention No. 111) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

6. *Encourages* Member States to conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements, as well as to undertake initiatives, including regional initiatives,[13] to address the problem of trafficking in persons, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives pay particular attention to the problem of trafficking in women and girls;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation and sex tourism, and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

8. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized for being trafficked and that they do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence;

9. *Recognizes* the urgent need for broad and concerted cooperation among all relevant actors, including States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society, to counter effectively the threat of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls;

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[13] Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed most recently in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, and the activities of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States meeting of national authorities on trafficking in persons, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

10. *Invites* Governments to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at preventing and combating corruption and the laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercialized sexual exploitation;

11. *Also invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking;

12. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls; to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue; and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

13. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially of children, through all possible preventive actions;

14. *Urges* concerned Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for boys and girls, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

15. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance, including in a language that they can understand, and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

16. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

17. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

18. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, as well as all measures taken against trafficking in persons, in particular those that affect the victims of such trafficking, pay particular attention to the needs of women and girls and are applied with full respect for the human rights of those victims and are consistent with internationally recognized principles of

non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination and the availability of appropriate legal redress, which may include measures that offer victims the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered;

19. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities, without fear, and being available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to protection and social, medical, financial and legal assistance, as appropriate;

20. *Also invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

21. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

22. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

23. *Urges* Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, through increased bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices, and invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

24. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officers, and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

25. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, which should focus on methods used in preventing such trafficking, prosecuting the traffickers and protecting the rights of victims, including protecting

the victims from traffickers, to ensure that the training includes human rights and child- and gender-sensitive perspectives, and to encourage cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society;

26. *Encourages* Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate, or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel of the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

27. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights[14] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report that compiles successful interventions and strategies, as well as challenges, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons, that identifies gender-related aspects of anti-trafficking efforts that remain unaddressed or inadequately addressed, and that evaluates the measures taken through appropriate indicators; and invites the Secretary-General to take into account in his report the work of Governments, relevant United Nations agencies and mechanisms and other international organizations.

[14] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Draft resolution III
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 60/140 of 16 December 2005,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit[3] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation are integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, and in some cases has even decreased, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[4]

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Reaffirming also its Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[5] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[6] adopted at the High-level Meeting on AIDS, held from 31 May to 2 June 2006, which, inter alia, acknowledged the feminization of the pandemic,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations system-wide policy and strategy on gender mainstreaming,[7]

1. *Takes notes with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[8]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] and the Declaration adopted on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[9] and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[10] are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit

[4] A/61/318.
[5] Resolution S-26/2, annex.
[6] Resolution 60/262, annex.
[7] E/2006/83.
[8] A/61/174.
[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.
[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[11] and to take into consideration the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible, and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and, as applicable, to carry out its recommendations, and welcomes, in this regard, the revised programme and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its fiftieth session,[12] which give particular attention to the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels as well as to the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

7. *Calls upon* Governments, and the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia:

(a) Sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels to take further action, inter alia, through the mainstreaming of gender perspectives, including through the development and use of gender equality indicators, as applicable, in all policies and programmes and the promotion of full and equal participation and empowerment of women, and enhanced international cooperation;

(b) Promotion and protection of, and respect for, the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, including through the full implementation by States of their obligations under all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

[11] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

[12] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9.

(c) Ensuring full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making as an essential condition for gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls as a critical factor in the eradication of poverty;

(d) Respect for the rule of law, including legislation, and continued efforts to repeal laws and eradicate policies and practices that discriminate against women and girls, and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect their rights;

(e) Strengthening the role of national institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the advancement of women, including through financial and other appropriate assistance, to increase their direct impact on women;

(f) Undertaking socio-economic policies that promote sustainable development and ensure poverty eradication programmes, especially for women and girls, and strengthening the provision of and ensuring equal access to adequate, affordable and accessible public and social services, including education and training at all levels, as well as to all types of permanent and sustainable social protection/social security systems for women throughout their life cycle, and supporting national efforts in this regard;

(g) Taking further steps to ensure that the educational system and the media, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, support the use of non-stereotypic, balanced and diverse images of women presenting them as key actors of the process of development as well as promoting non-discriminatory roles of women and men in their private and public life;

(h) Incorporating gender perspectives and human rights in health-sector policies and programmes, paying attention to women's specific needs and priorities, ensuring women's right to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and their access to affordable and adequate health-care services, including sexual, reproductive and maternal health care and lifesaving obstetric care, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[13] and recognizing that the lack of economic empowerment and independence has increased women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, involving the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other poverty-related diseases;

(i) Eliminating gender inequalities, gender-based abuse and violence; increasing the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and services, including, inter alia, sexual and reproductive health, and the provision of full access to comprehensive information and education; ensuring that women can exercise their right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to their sexuality in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence; and taking all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and to strengthen their economic independence, while, in this context, reiterating the importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

[13] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

(j) Strengthening national health and social infrastructures to reinforce measures to promote women's access to public health and taking action at the national level to address shortages of human resources for health, by, inter alia, developing, financing and implementing policies, within national development strategies, to improve training and management and effectively govern the recruitment, retention and deployment of health workers, including through international cooperation in this area;

(k) Adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources;

(l) Increased partnerships among Governments, civil society and the private sector;

(m) Encouraging joint responsibility of men and boys with women and girls in the promotion of gender equality, based on the conviction that this is essential to the achievement of the goals of gender equality, development and peace;

(n) Removing structural and legal barriers, as well as eliminating stereotypic attitudes, to gender equality at work, promoting equal pay for equal work, and promoting the recognition of the value of women's unremunerated work, as well as developing and promoting policies that facilitate the reconciliation of employment and family responsibilities;

8. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and calls upon Governments to eliminate violence against women and girls and to elaborate and implement strategies in this regard;

9. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

10. *Resolves* to intensify the efforts of its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies to fully mainstream a gender perspective in their work, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes;

11. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the advancement of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development;

12. *Urges* Governments and all entities of the United Nations system, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and all relevant actors of civil society, to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in the implementation

of and follow-up to all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and to give attention to gender perspectives in preparation for such events, including the upcoming special session on children;

13. *Reaffirms its call* to recently established subsidiary bodies, namely, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, to integrate attention to gender perspectives into their consideration of all issues in their respective agendas, including the development of their methods of work;

14. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, through, inter alia, implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997[14] and its resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004;

15. *Welcomes* the ministerial declaration of the 2006 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council,[15] which, inter alia, underlined the need for the consistent use of a gender mainstreaming strategy for the creation of an enabling environment for women's participation in development,[16] and calls upon all stakeholders to work to ensure the full incorporation of gender perspectives in the implementation of the declaration;

16. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that programmes, plans and budgets visibly mainstream gender perspectives;

17. *Reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality;

18. *Also reaffirms* the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, while noting the sixth anniversary of its adoption and the open debates in the Council on women and peace and security;

19. *Urges* Governments and the United Nations system to take further steps to ensure the integration of a gender perspective and the full and equal participation of women in all efforts to promote peace and security, as well as to increase their role in decision-making at all levels, including through the development of national action plans and strategies;

20. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

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[14] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[15] See A/61/3, chap. III, para. 50.

[16] Ibid., para. 9.

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels in the Secretariat and throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering in particular women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.

28. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the advancement of women

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system;[2]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.[3]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/61/38).
[2] A/61/318.
[3] A/61/292.